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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Examiner:

Achim H. Krotz

James Shultz

Serial No.: 09/902,953

Group Art Unit: 1635

Filed: July 11, 2001

Confirmation No. 9234

For: ENHANCEMENT OF THE STABILITY OF OLIGONUCLEOTIDES
COMPRISING PHOSPHOROTHIOATE LINKAGES BY ADDITION OF WATER-
SOLUBLE ANTIOXIDANTS

BOX AF

Express Mail No.: EV146607347US

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

In response to the Office Action mailed November 20, 2002, in connection with the above-identified patent application and Request for Continued Examination filed herewith, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the following amendments and reconsideration in view of the remarks provided below.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 14 according to the clean version provided below.

1. (amended twice) A bi-phasic or multiphasic formulation comprising an aptamer, ribozyme, peptide nucleic acid, or antisense oligonucleotide or bioequivalent thereof having one or more phosphorothioate linkages, and a water-soluble anti-oxidant capable of inhibiting desulfurization of said oligonucleotide.